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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 JERRY E. SMITH, ) No. C 12-04859 EJD (PR)  
12 Plaintiff, )  
13 vs. ) ORDER OF DISMISSAL WITH LEAVE  
14 ) TO AMEND  
15 SERGEANT M. BLOISE, et al., )  
16 Defendants. )

17  
18 Plaintiff, a state prisoner at San Quentin State Prison, filed the instant civil rights  
19 action in pro se pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed in  
20 forma pauperis will be granted in a separate written order.  
21

22 **DISCUSSION**

23 **A. Standard of Review**

24 A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a  
25 prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a  
26 governmental entity. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify  
27 any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a  
28 claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is

1 immune from such relief. See id. § 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se pleadings must, however, be  
2 liberally construed. See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir.  
3 1988).

4 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential  
5 elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was  
6 violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the  
7 color of state law. See West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

## 8 9 **B. Plaintiff's Claims**

10 Plaintiff states the sanitation and ventilation in the showers in his cell block are  
11 unhealthy due to drainage problems. A prison official said it would be repaired, but it  
12 was never fixed. Plaintiff provides no other information regarding the problem with the  
13 drainage. (Compl. at 3.) The complaint is dismissed with leave to amend for Plaintiff to  
14 describe in more detail how the drainage problem violated his Constitutional rights. The  
15 exhibits attached to Plaintiff's complaint also indicate that plaintiff has been moved to a  
16 different part of the prison without these problems.

17 The Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the infliction of cruel  
18 and unusual punishments. "The Constitution does not mandate comfortable prisons, ... but  
19 neither does it permit inhumane ones." See Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 832 (1994)  
20 (internal citations and quotation marks omitted). The treatment a prisoner receives in  
21 prison and the conditions under which he is confined are subject to scrutiny under the  
22 Eighth Amendment. Id. Prison authorities may not deny prisoners "'the minimal  
23 civilized measure of life's necessities.'" Farmer, 511 U.S. at 834 (quoting Rhodes v.  
24 Chapman, 452 U.S. 337, 347 (1981)). In determining whether a deprivation of a basic  
25 necessity is sufficiently serious to satisfy the objective component of an Eighth  
26 Amendment claim, a court must consider the circumstances, nature, and duration of the  
27 deprivation. The more basic the need, the shorter the time it can be withheld. Johnson v.  
28 Lewis, 217 F.3d 726, 731 (9th Cir. 2000). Although the Eighth Amendment protects

1 against cruel and unusual punishment, this does not mean that federal courts can or  
2 should interfere whenever prisoners are inconvenienced or suffer de minimis injuries.  
3 See, e.g., Hudson v. McMillian, 503 U.S. 1, 9–10 (1992) (8th Amendment excludes from  
4 constitutional recognition de minimis uses of force).

5  
6 **CONCLUSION**

7 For the foregoing reasons, the Court orders as follows:

8 The complaint is **DISMISSED** with leave to amend. Within **twenty-eight (28)**  
9 **days** of the date this order is filed, Plaintiff shall file an amended complaint using the  
10 court's form complaint. The amended complaint must include the caption and civil case  
11 number used in this order and the words "AMENDED COMPLAINT" on the first page  
12 and write in the case number for this action, Case No. C 12-04859 EJD (PR). Plaintiff  
13 must answer all the questions on the form in order for the action to proceed.

14 **Failure to respond in accordance with this order by filing an amended**  
15 **complaint will result in the dismissal of this action without prejudice and without**  
16 **further notice to Plaintiff.**

17 The Clerk shall include two copies of the court's complaint with a copy of this  
18 order to Plaintiff.

19  
20 DATED: 12/6/2012

  
21 EDWARD J. DAVILA  
22 United States District Judge  
23  
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JERRY E SMITH,

Plaintiff,

v.

KEVIN CHAPPELL et al,

Defendant.

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Case Number: CV12-04859 EJD

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on December 6, 2012, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Jerry Eugene Smith H-44485  
San Quentin State Prison  
San Quentin, CA 94964

Dated: December 6, 2012

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk  
/s/ By: Elizabeth Garcia, Deputy Clerk